

A PARASITE OF THE FALL WEB-WORM.

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In this vicinity the cottonwoods (*Populus fremontei*) begin to be infested with the Fall Web-worm (*Hyphantria cunea*) about the first of July. On July 28 I placed an entire nest of good-sized web-worms in a breeding cage. Aug. 19 quite a number of moths had emerged, and one specimen of the Tachinid parasite described below. The earth was full of the web-worm cocoons and pupae, only a few stray ones having been formed in the leaves and twigs. The moth is the pure, snow-white form, with the thighs yellowish. Aug. 25 three more specimens of the Tachinid were secured. The following is a description of the latter.

Meigenia hyphantriae n. sp. ♂. Silvery-cinereous, and black. *Eyes* dark brown, extending not quite so low as the vibrissae, thinly hairy on lower portions; front at vertex about one-third the width of head, a little wider at base of antennae, somewhat prominent, silvery on sides with a cinereous shade; frontal vitta narrow, not one-fifth the width of front, dark brown, the prongs on sides of ocelli rather faint, ochreous; frontal bristles moderately strong, three posterior ones inclined backward, others inward, decussate except the divergent lower ones which extend as far down as base of third antennal joint; two orbital bristles on each side; face and cheeks silvery, face strongly receding, facial depression rather wide, facial ridges bristly for some distance above the vibrissae which are decussate and inserted considerably above the oral margin;

sides of face moderately wide, bare; cheeks moderately narrow, bare, except bristles on lower border; antennae a little shorter than face, first two joints rufous, first joint very short, second slightly elongate, third narrow, black, rufous at base, about three times as long as the second; arista black, microscopically pubescent, rather long, thickened for one-third its length, apparently 2-jointed, the second joint short; proboscis rufous, but little extended, fleshy, apparently very short, labella large, flavous or rufous; palpi well developed, slender, nearly cylindrical, flavous or rufous, black hairy; occiput gray or cinereous, with whitish hair, except a wide black vitta from vertex to center, orbital margins fringed with black bristles. *Thorax* narrower than head and abdomen, widest in front, silvery, shaded with cinereous above, with two narrow well-defined black vittae and a lateral interrupted one, bristly and hairy; scutellum cinereous, with an apical very short, weak, decussate pair of bristles, a sub-apical decussate pair of macrochaetae extending to base of third abdominal segment, two lateral and a discal pair of macrochaetae; humeri and pleurae silvery, bristly. *Abdomen* rather conical in outline, short, stout, first segment a little shortened, macrochaetae only marginal; first segment black, without macrochaetae; second and third broadly silvery at base, blackish on posterior border; second with a median pair of macrochaetae, and a single lateral one; third with eight macrochaetae; anal more yellowish at base, armed with macrochaetae and bristles above and below. *Legs* black, coxae and femora silvery, tibiae slightly so, femora and tibiae bristly, hind tibiae with a fringe of bristles on outer edge; claws and pulvilli a little elongate. *Wings* rather broad, longer than the abdomen, without

costal spine, grayish-hyaline, opaque gray at base; apical cell very narrowly open at some distance before the apex of the wing; fourth vein bent at an angle without stump or wrinkle, the bend not sharp, apical cross-vein a little concave; hind cross-vein curved, nearer to bend of fourth vein; third vein spined at base; tegulae white, halteres yellowish gray.

♀. Differs as follows: Front nearly one-half the width of head; frontal vitta broad, occupying one-third of frontal width; three orbital bristles (on one side, on the other side only two); eyes more distinctly hairy, especially on upper portions; claws and pulvilli hardly shorter.

Length of ♂ 6 mm.; wing $5\frac{1}{2}$ mm. ♀ 7 mm.; wing 6 mm.

Described from three ♂ specimens, and one ♀, bred from chrysalids of

Hyphantria cunea, Las Cruces, New Mexico. This species is best located in Meigenia. The face, however, is not almost perpendicular, the abdomen is short and stout, and the macrochaetae are only marginal unless on the anal segment. It cannot be referred to *Mystacella*, which has the eyes more decidedly hairy.

Note on Phorocera promiscua Towns. Psyche, v. 6, 84. This species was wrongly referred to *Phorocera*, my reason for the reference being that the facial ridges are bristly for fully half their extent. But the eyes are very indistinctly hairy, the species agreeing in this and its other characters with *Meigenia*. It will be best, I believe, to refer to it as *Meigenia promiscua* Towns.

NOTES ON BOMBYCID LARVAE.—III.

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SCHIZURA EXIMIA Grote.

1882. *Oedemasia eximia* Grt., Bull. U. S. geol. & geog. surv. terr., Hayden, 6, 275.

1891. Thaxter, Can. ent., XXIII, 34.

I have for some time considered this species improperly referred to *Oedemasia*, but I have never found the larva. Dr. Thaxter, however, has bred it, and writes me as follows: "*Oedemasia eximia* resembles *Coelodasys leptinoides** in coloring, but structurally is perhaps more like *biguttatus* (*ipomeae*). When at rest it is greatly hunched anteriorly, and the furcate prominence on segm. 4 is very long. I should say it was surely a *Coelodasys*" (= *Schizura*).

I would place it next to *S. leptinoides* and near *Ianassa*.

SCHIZURA BADIA Packard.

1864. *Oedemasia badia* Pack., Proc. ent. soc. Phil., III, 361.

Larva. I have found this larva on *Viburnum lentago*, and it is certainly not an *Oedemasia*. It is without the red hump and black tubercles of *O. concinna*, the body being smooth, with dorsal processes on the 1st, 4th, and 8th abdominal segments; the sides of the thoracic segments are green, but the usual V-shaped mark is, I believe, absent. I have not been able to obtain the larva recently for more careful description.

OEDEMASIA SALICIS Hy. Edw.

1876. *Heterocampa salicis* Hy. Edw., Proc. Cal. acad. sci., VII, 121.

Larva. Third stage. Head black, with a few short hairs; cervical shield bisected, black, as is the anal plate. Body yellow, with short pale hairs growing from black tubercles; joint 5 has a slight dorsal hump somewhat orange tinted, and with four smooth black tubercles, these being part of a

*Described in Ent. amer., vol. 6, p. 230.